

MONTANA

*black
...bear hunting.....*



WHERE TO HUNT: Black bears can be found throughout roughly the western third of Montana in mountainous and foothill areas. Good populations of black bear are present both west and east of the continental divide. Because of increased road access and lack of security in some parts of northwestern Montana it has become necessary to shorten the season there, splitting hunting into spring and fall periods to control hunting pressure. West of the divide the Swan Valley, the South and Middle Fork of the Flathead, the Whitefish Range, the St. Regis River and Thompson Falls west provide good hunting. East of the divide, the Little and Big Belt Mountains and the upper Yellowstone Valley are good areas.

Generally, side drainages are the best areas to hunt where topography affords hunters a good view of side hills. South facing slopes in open parks and slide areas are frequented by bear in the early morning hours during the spring. In these areas, annuals green early offering a ready food source for the bears.

WHEN TO HUNT: The exact time of black bear emergence from hibernation is dependent largely upon how soon spring weather arrives. As a rule of thumb, emergence begins some time in mid to late April but there is usually not a lot of activity until the second week in May.

Hunter success for black bears is relatively high during the spring while bears are still congregated on the spring "green up." After this period black bears spend more time in forested areas and feed more frequently at night. During the fall hunter success again increases due mostly to hunters spending more time in the field because of the general elk and deer season.

CARE OF HIDES: Hides are usually prime and suitable for trophies from early spring until about the middle of June, and again from about September until the bears hibernate. To preserve and enhance the quality of the

pelage, proper care must begin immediately after shooting.

Hides should be skinned out as soon as possible, and fat removed from the flesh side in the process. All bones should be removed from each foot. If time does not allow removal of all foot bones while skinning, they should be removed as soon as possible afterwards.

Sever the ear cartilage flush with the head muscles and skin the cape from the eyes and nose area. The cut along the belly should extend up through the chin to facilitate removal of the hide. This cut is usually made by taxidermists when they flesh out the lips.

After the hide is removed, allow it to cool before folding it.

Several pounds of salt should be rubbed into all parts of the fleshy side of the hide. The hide can then be rolled but it should be salted again in several days. If it is not necessary to roll the hide, salt it well and leave it spread out. Never roll an unsalted hide unless it is to be frozen and never leave any hide lying in direct sunlight.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR
REGULATIONS AND FEES

FEES AND SEASONS

SEE BIG GAME HUNTING REGULATIONS

Resident Fees:

Black Bear - \$8.00 plus \$2.00

Sportsman License - \$35.00 in
game bird

Nonresident Fees:

Black Bear - \$100.00 plus

Combination License - \$28
game

Black Bear

HUNTING DISTRICTS

Districts beginning with number 1
with exceptions noted below

Exceptions:

1. Districts 100, 101, 103 _____

Districts beginning with numbers 2
4 and 5 with exceptions noted

Exceptions:

1. District 284 - HUNTING BY ARCHERY
archery stamp required

2. Districts 427, 482 _____

3. Blackfoot-Clearwater, Calf Creek
Three Mile, Nevada Lake, Sun
Beartooth, Ear Mountain, Black
Judith River Wildlife Management

R DISTRICTS

conservation license.

cludes black bear, deer, elk,
fishing and conservation license.

\$2.00 conservation license.

5.00 includes black bear, deer, elk,
e bird, fishing and conservation license.

Seasons

SEASON DATES

_____ April 15 - May 31, 1983

Sept. 10 - Nov. 27, 1983

_____ April 15 - April 30, 1983

Sept. 10 - Nov. 27, 1983

3, _____ April 1 - Nov. 27, 1983

elow

RY ONLY:

_____ Closed to all bear hunting
on Nov. 13, 1983

k, _____ May 15 - Nov. 27, 1983

ver

leaf and

t Areas

CLOSURES: The season will be closed to black bear hunting in all state game preserves and in the following described Gallatin Closed Area:

GALLATIN CLOSED AREA: That portion of Gallatin County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Daly Pass on the Yellowstone National Park boundary, thence in a northwesterly direction following the horse trail to the headwaters of the South Fork of Buffalo Horn Creek, thence down the South Fork of Buffalo Horn Creek to the main Buffalo Horn, thence down said creek to the West Gallatin River, thence up the West Gallatin River to the mouth of Sage Creek, thence up Sage Creek to the confluence of Big Sage and Little Sage Creeks, thence southerly along the divide between Big and Little Sage Creeks to Sage Mountain, thence in an easterly direction along the Madison-Gallatin Divide to the boundary of Yellowstone National Park, thence in a north and easterly direction along the Yellowstone National Park boundary to Daly Pass, the point of beginning.

LIMIT: One either sex black bear per license year. Cub bears or female bears with cubs may not be taken. Cubs are defined as young of the year. The black bear license tag must be attached to the hide.